

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 17, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I am writing you today to respectfully request a leave of absence from my position as a member of the House Science Committee.

I am making this request so that I may better concentrate my efforts on my position as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I am a ranking subcommittee member. Specifically, I would like my leave of absence to be temporary and to last for the duration of the 106th Congress. I also wish to retain my level of seniority on the Science Committee during my leave of absence. In addition, I have previously notified Minority Leader Gephardt and Ranking Member Brown of my intention to take a leave of absence from the committee.

I want to thank you for your attention to my request, and I hope that you will look upon it favorably. Should you have any concerns about this request, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully,

JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 18, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to formally express my desire to resign from the House Committee on Resources.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF ERVAN N. CHEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is not often that we can rise to the floor of the House with both feelings of joy and deep sadness. I have a particularly unique privilege because I can rise before the American people today and pay tribute to a truly great

American, someone who we lost too young and too soon. But the joy I have in sharing his legacy and his spirit with all of my colleagues, but particularly the young people.

I rise, Madam Speaker, to pay tribute to Ervan Chew, someone who lived on this land and on this earth from 1956 to 1999. But he lived it with vitality and vigorousness and a love for life. In fact, to his very end, his demise was caused because he was doing too much for the community to take care of himself.

Ervan Chew was a bright and shining star in the Houston community throughout the entirety of his too-short life. In a time when role models for our youth are sometimes few and far between, Ervan Chew stood out as a civic leader, not because of his words, but because of his deeds.

He was a tireless volunteer who was willing to give of himself for causes that he believed in. Simply said, Mr. Ervan Chew was the ultimate volunteer and a civil servant of the highest order.

For that reason, Ervan was often sought after by people and groups in need of assistance. Mr. Chew served in multitudes of leadership positions with various nonprofit organizations, often at the same time.

Can you imagine, coming from Houston, Texas, he participated in Leadership Houston, an organization that developed leaders, not for self, but in order to take their leadership and make things better.

He was a good scout. Oh, you say, yes, he was a good Boy Scout. No, he worked for the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts. So he took the theme of making your camp better than how you found it truly as part of his creed. He made it better for the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Houston Forum Club, the American Leadership Forum, the National Asian Leadership Fellowship, the United Way, the Houston Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Volunteer Center, Save the Children, the Wesley Community Center, the American Red Cross, the Chinese Seniors Association, and the Houston Independent School District. When Ervan Chew took positions with those organizations, he always did more than what was expected of him.

As other civic servants from Houston would be quick to tell us, when one saw Ervan Chew was working alongside of one on a project, one always knew that one's mission would be accomplished. Along with compassion and benevolence, he exuded a quiet patience and determination that, all by itself, could drive any worthwhile project to completion. As those qualities were easily recognizable to his peers, it was only natural that he was recognized officially by those he worked with, and he often was.

During his too-brief life, Ervan Chew earned 57 Boy Scout merit badges and

was promoted to Eagle Scout. He was awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver Award in 1986 by former President Gerald Ford, and won the Mayor of Houston's Volunteer Service Award just a few short months before his death.

Although he was showered with awards and accolades fit for but a few great citizens, I believe Ervan Chew truly believed his deeds were fully compensated with warm smiles from the beneficiaries of his good work.

Ervan will always be remembered as someone who was willing to work hard to make his community a better place for all of us. Part of his legacy is that Houston is a better place because of him. But I believe there will be more.

I hope and pray that people will see how rewarding Mr. Chew's life was and will be willing to follow in his footsteps by volunteering for a group or activity or just simply taking up a cause, having a passion about it, being convicted, saying to someone who says "no," saying "yes, we can do this."

I was truly saddened by the loss of this young warrior. Ervan Chew's legacy of altruism and selflessness will live in the hearts of each person he touched through his good deeds.

There was more to Ervan than what he did externally or outside of his home. He had a loving wife, and they loved each other. They loved his native land of China, his father and his mother, his beloved aunt who raised him who I had time to share moments with, his brothers.

For me, Ervan will be deeply and sincerely missed, Madam Speaker. In fact, so many of our hearts are broken, for not because we needed to have Ervan nurture us, but because we knew there was more than he could do. He touched our lives, he touched our hearts, and he flew high where the eagles fly.

Ervan, I tip my hat to you, but I imagine your wings are strong, and I hope that your memory will live on, not in just our minds, but in our deeds. God bless Ervan and God bless his family and God bless America.

Madam Speaker, I insert the following letter into the RECORD:

JANUARY 22, 1999.

To the Family of Ervan Chew:

On behalf of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to offer you and your family my deepest sympathy on the passing of Mr. Ervan Chew. I was truly saddened to hear of Mr. Chew's passing and wanted to convey to his family my heartfelt condolences.

I hope on this day, however, amidst all the grief, you will feel gratitude for Ervan's magnificent life, determination to carry on his legacy and keep it alive, and the peace of God which takes us to a place beyond all our understanding.

The Bible tells us, "though we weep through the night, joy will come in the morning." Ervan Chew's incredible life force brought us all joy in the morning. No dark night could ever defeat him. And as we remember him, may we always be able to recover his joy. For this man loved life and all the things in it. He loved his wife, his